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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B6PAGE 01 CARACA 03967 01 OF 02 091759Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-02	SNP-01	SP-01
	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	/042W	

-----254D73 091759Z /38

O 091757Z APR 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9914
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 03967

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, CU, VE
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PAGE 02 CARACA 03967 01 OF 02 091759Z
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] ON THE B1, B6
POLITICAL CRISIS

REF: FBIS CHIVA CHIVA 41614Z APR 92

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. POLOFFS MET WITH FORMER [REDACTED] B1, B6

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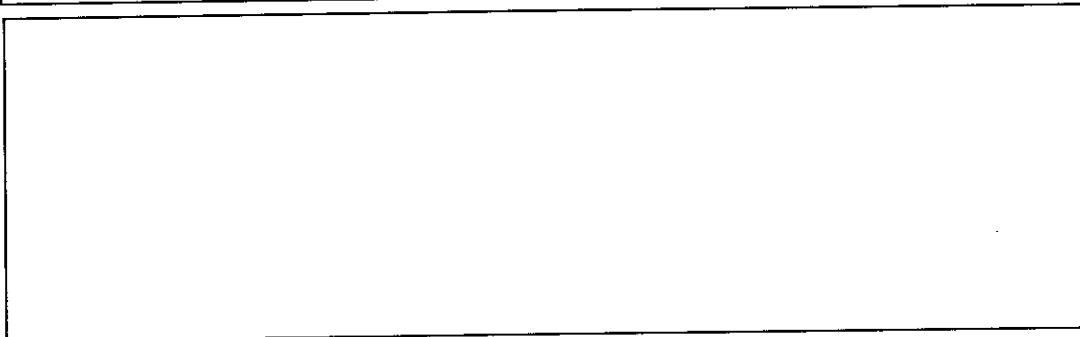
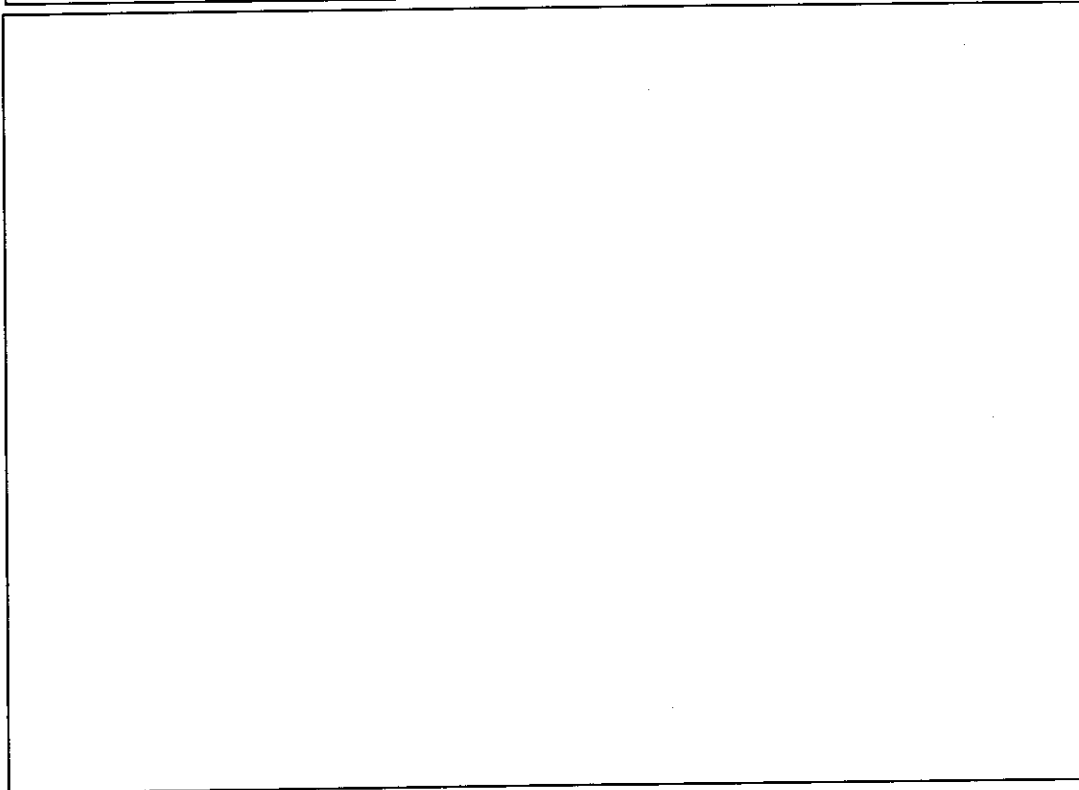
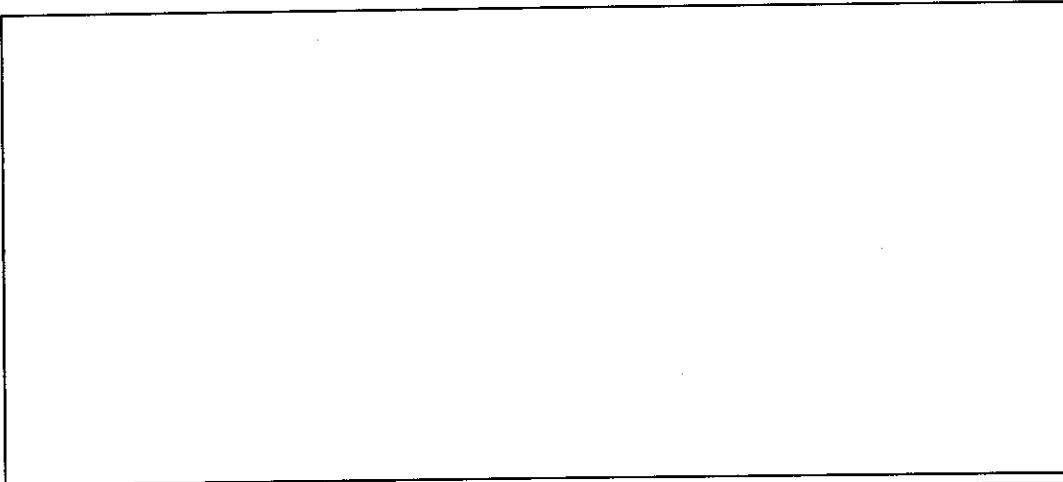


COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS.

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B1, B6

FOREIGN SECRET SERVICES' ACTIVITY IN VENEZUELA



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THE POLITICAL CRISIS

6. [] SAID THAT CAP GAINS POLITICAL STRENGTH WITH
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EACH PASSING DAY, BUT THAT THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY
WAS STILL "NOT GOOD." THE PROBLEM IN THE ARMED FORCES,
ESPECIALLY THE ARMY, WAS STILL VERY DELICATE. HE HAD BEEN
STRUCK []

[] HE CONTINUED, BY THE "PUGNACITY" OF THE OFFICERS HE
HAD ENCOUNTERED. [] CHARACTERIZED MINISTER OF DEFENSE
OCHOA ANTICH AS A GOOD OFFICER, ONE WHO SUPPORTS
DEMOCRACY, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO
CONTINUE TO KEEP THE ARMED FORCES UNDER CONTROL. THE
"PROBLEM," [] ADDED, WAS THAT THE ARMED FORCES
LITERALLY WERE "THE PEOPLE" HERE RATHER THAN CONSTITUTING

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-02	SNP-01	SP-01
	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	/042W	
-----254D85 091800Z /38							

O 091757Z APR 92

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AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 03967

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
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SUBJECT: [REDACTED] ON THE B1, B6

A CASTE APART AS IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES. THEREFORE, THEY HAD THE SAME COMPLAINTS AS THE AVERAGE VENEZUELAN ABOUT THE POLITICAL SYSTEM. [REDACTED] IMPLIED THAT HE BELIEVED THAT OCHOA FACED A REAL CHALLENGE IN THIS REGARD.

7. [REDACTED] DESCRIBED FOUR CAUSES OF THE COUP ATTEMPT AND THE ENSUING POLITICAL CRISIS:

-- THE ABSENCE OF A REAL MARKET, WHICH ALLOWED MONOPOLISTS AND OLIGOPOLISTS TO RAISE PRICES RATHER THAN TO INCREASE PRODUCTION IN THEIR THIRST FOR PROFIT;

-- STRONG PERSONAL RESENTMENTS (WHICH, HE CLAIMED, ARE A FEATURE OF VENEZUELAN CULTURE), ESPECIALLY ON THE PART OF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] -- CAP'S CHIEF CRITICS WITHIN THE POLITICAL ELITE;

-- THE NATURE OF THE VENEZUELAN POLITICAL SYSTEM, WHICH CONCENTRATES TOO MUCH POWER IN THE PRESIDENCY, UNITING THE

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FUNCTIONS OF HEAD OF GOVERNMENT AND HEAD OF STATE.
CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE
POST OF PRIME MINISTER, WHO WOULD BE REMOVABLE ONLY BY
CONGRESS, IS BADLY NEEDED. (COMMENT: [REDACTED] EVIDENTLY
FAVORS CHANGING THE PROPOSAL ON CREATION OF A PRIME
MINISTRY NOW BEFORE CONGRESS, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE PRIME
MINISTER'S REMOVAL AT WILL BY THE PRESIDENT.)

B1, B6

-- THE ACTIVITY OF FOREIGN SECRET SERVICES WF
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KU9

9. [REDACTED] RELATED A STORY ABOUT COUP RINGLEADER LT. COL.
CHAVEZ, [REDACTED]

B6

[REDACTED] A FRIEND OF [REDACTED]
HAD OCCASIONALLY GONE TO CHAVEZ' PLACE (PRIOR TO FEBRUARY
4) TO HAVE DINNER WITH HIS FAMILY AND HIM. OBSERVING THAT
CHAVEZ ALWAYS SET AN EXTRA PLACE AT THE TABLE WHICH NO ONE
EVER USED, [REDACTED] FRIEND FINALLY ASKED THE COMMANDANTE
WHO THIS PLACE WAS FOR. "BOLIVAR," CHAVEZ REPLIED.
FELDER

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